

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: FY 74 IVP NOMINEE: LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY

REF: COLOMBO 1678, COLOMBO 1515, COLOMBO 1080

1. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE COMMENTS BELOW DUPLICATE TO SOME EXTENT INFO PROVIDED TWO MONTHS AGO IN COLOMBO 1080, EMBASSY WOULD NEVERTHELESS NOW LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR DEPUTY MINISTER JAYAKODY (WHO ARRIVES JULY 8) AND RE-EMPHASIZE DESIRABILITY OF WORKING OUT HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAM IN KEEPING WITH HIS POSITION HERE. ALTHOUGH HE SOMETIMES COMES ACROSS AS LOW-KEY INDIVIDUAL, THIS IMPRESSION BELIES HIS IMPORTANCE IN KEY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA). BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE ALSO HOLDS MDFA PORTFOLIO, IT NORMALLY FALLS UPON JAYAKODY TO BE SPOKESMAN IN PARLIAMENT ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO MINISTRY. HE ALSO HOLDS MONTHLY MDFA PRESS CONFERENCE. AS RECOGNIZED SPOKESMAN ON MATTERS SUCH AS DIEGO GARCIA AND INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ), HE HAS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF US POSITION ON THESE AND OTHER SUBJECTS IN MANNER NOT UNHELPFUL TO UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF HIS BROAD INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN HOW TO GET THINGS DONE, AND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, WE BELIEVE BALANCED AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN OTHER AREAS.

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2. IN WASHINGTON, HE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW

FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS ARE REACHED AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF HE COULD OBSERVE WORKING OF OFFICE OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR COUNTRY DIRECTORATE FOR ONE DAY. GSL HAS ALSO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SET UP BANDARANAIKE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SIMILAR TO BRITISH CHATHAM HOUSE, AND JAYAKODY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBSERVING US TECHNIQUES THIS FIELD. IN-DEPTH TOUR OF FSI WOULD BE GOOD, INCLUDING LANGUAGE-TRAINING FACILITIES SINCE MDFA IS PUTTING GREATER EMPHASIS ON LANGUAGE TRAINING. AS JAYAKODY IS PRESS SPOKESMAN HERE, ATTENDANCE AT STATE AND/OR WHITE HOUSE DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. BOTH IN DOD AND IN STATE WE SEE ADVANTAGE, IF NO ATTEMPT IS MADE TO OVERSELL, IN CONVEYING US VIEWS ON INDIAN OCEAN AND DIEGO GARCIA, ISSUES ON WHICH JAYAKODY HAS SHOWN UNDERSTANDING AND WHICH HE HAS HANDLED SKILLFULLY AS MDFA SPOKESMAN. ALSO BELIEVE WE CAN INDICATE FAVORABLE TIES BETWEEN US AND CEYLONSE MILITARY, BASED ON 1971 MAP PROGRAM ASSISTANCE AND NOW-SUSPENDED CONUS TRAINING PROGRAM, REMEMBERING, HOWEVER, SMALLNESS OF SRI LANKA'S ARMED FORCES AND NEED TO AVOID OVERWHELMING JAYAKODY WITH SIZE OF US MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

3. AMB REQUESTS THAT SENIOR DEPT OFFICIAL GIVE EIGHT-FLOOR LUNCH IN JAYAKODYS HONOR.

4. JAYAKODY ALSO HAS IMPORTANT POSITION AS CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL NARCOTICS ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH OVERSEES ALL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES HERE. HENCE, EXPOSURE TO DEA IS IMPORTANT. ALSO, HE SHOULD SPEND AT LEAST ONE DAY ON CAPITOL HILL, WHERE HE SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE CALLS AND, IF POSSIBLE, OBSERVE ACTIVITIES OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND/OR SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE WILL BE CARRYING AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE OF PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE FOR SENATOR MATHIAS, AND HE SHOULD ALSO SEE SENATOR HARTKE, FOR WHOM JAYAKODY GAVE DINNER HERE IN JANUARY.

5. WE ALSO WISH STRESS HIS INTEREST IN THEATER. JAYAKODY UNCLASSIFIED

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IS GRANDSON OF CONRAD DIAS, PROMINENT CEYLONSE PLAYWRIGHT. HE HIMSELF IS ACTIVE IN PRODUCING PLAYS AND HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN OBSERVING AMATEUR AND OTHER THEATER GROUPS IN UNITED STATES. IN PARTICULAR, HE WANTS TO SEE AMERICAN TECHNIQUES OF MAKE-UP, STAGING, ETC.

6. FINALLY, WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE JAYAKODYS STRONG INTEREST IN NITROGENOUS FIXATION OF ALGAE.

7. JAYAKODYS LEADER GRANT PROVIDES EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LASTING FAVORABLE IMPRESSION
ON MAN WHO SEEMS DESTINED TO HOLD SUBSTANTIAL POSITION
IN SRI LANKA FOR CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME.
VAN HOLLEN

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